

BLACKMAILER WILSON

Organized Levy Against Patrons of Dr. Plouf.

A WOODLAND MAN A VICTIM

He Pays Sixty Dollars for a Letter Taken From the Doctor's Waste Basket.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 3.—Charles O. Wilson, a self-confessed blackmailer, was permitted to occupy the witness chair in the police court today, when he unobtrusively told a tale of organized levy against the innocent patrons of Dr. J. E. Plouf.

Wilson, in company with Plouf's assistant of last Saturday, J. D. L. McGaughey, was arrested on a warrant charging extortion. He gained temporary liberty through the connivance of a friend, but for several days he has been a guest at the police prison.

The charge against McGaughey was called today, although it was known that Plouf could not appear, owing to the wounds inflicted by McGaughey. Wilson was anxious to unburden his mind, however, and was allowed to take the stand.

"I have known McGaughey since last August," he said, "and I got acquainted with Dr. Plouf about the same time. I have been at Dr. Plouf's office several times and talked business with McGaughey while he was employed there. One day I met McGaughey on the street and he said he had some letters which were written to Plouf by married women. He thought that these letters would kill them if they knew of the matter, while they would also run Plouf out of town. McGaughey told me he had secured the scraps out of Plouf's waste basket. We planned a scheme, and soon I went to Woodland with nine of the pieces of paper. I made the trip at the request of Charles A. Johnson, who was a co-laborer of McGaughey. Johnson gave me \$15 for expenses, and I made my first call on Mr. Curtis in Woodland."

"I told Curtis I had something he wanted. Then I showed him a few letters which his wife had sent to Dr. Plouf. He offered me \$40 to hand the affair, but I declined to deal with him until he raised his offer to \$60. I gave him nearly all the letters and returned to San Francisco, but I did not give McGaughey or Johnson any of the money. I told them that Curtis had forcibly taken the letters from me. The whole thing was intended to injure Plouf."

Wilson said Plouf had promised him immunity from prosecution if he would testify against McGaughey.

A LETTER FROM CUBA.

Arms, Ammunition and Powder Wanted.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., April 3.—A special to the Florida Citizen from Tampa, Fla., says a letter received by a prominent Cuban here from a friend in Central Cuba, under date of March 29th, states that the conservative party want the annexation of Cuba to the United States.

At Santiago there are 10,000 men with the insurgents. They delight the Spanish troops every day in engagements of two, three or four hours' firing. A great number of Spanish troops have been sent over to the Cubans, and besides that they may go on in this way, for Spain has no money to pay the army, and necessity will oblige them to desert the Spanish flag. The American fleet is about the shores and all the Spanish men-of-war are at port on account of the panic that has already taken possession of the people. But this is not enough. They think Cuba is a money mine, and they want here to give more protection to Cubans who are American citizens. The people are ready for the contest. All we want from you is to send arms, ammunition and plenty of powder.

A postscript here is added that for \$60,000 the writer can buy 10,000 small Remington rifles.

IN A MEXICAN JAIL.

E. P. Thresher Refused to Pay an Exorbitant Board Bill.

St. Paso April 3.—E. P. Thresher of Cambridge, Mass., with his family, arrived here today from Aguas Calientes, Mex., where they have stayed a term in jail. Mr. Thresher is indignant at his treatment and proposes to make the matter one of international investigation. His story, which is said to be verified, is that he stopped at the Palace house, kept by George King. When he prepared to leave the place, King charged him double the rate agreed upon. He refused to pay, King had him, his wife and three children put in jail where they remained until Consul Dwight furnished bail. Then the mayor ordered the release of the family, and the whole business was a mistake and a release of the Americans with much profuse apology. Mr. Thresher will go to Los Angeles where he will leave his family and return east for the purpose of laying the matter before the state department and make a demand for satisfaction. Mrs. Thresher was prostrated by her experience.

A Water Company's Affairs Tangled.

Riverbank, April 3.—The affairs of the Riverside Water Company are in a tangled state. Some weeks ago a receiver was appointed for the property, and today an embargo was laid against the company, in which A. S. White, J. F. Houghton and A. Keitt, trustees, ask that all property of the company be turned over to them under a trust deed which the receiver had made in favor of the company. The action was brought under certain trust deeds which were executed by the company to the trustees in 1885 as security for the payment of the principal and interest on the first series of bonds of the company, amounting to \$200,000. As a further cause of action, the second debt of trust, which was executed in 1888, to secure the payment of the second series of bonds, amounting to \$150,000, is cited. The second debt covers in addition the property not covered by the first trust deed. One hundred and fifty thousand dollars of the first series bonds fall due on July 1st next, and the people who are stockholders in the company are deeply interested in the outcome of the present litigation.

The Markets.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 3.—Wheat—Very dull; December, 85½c; May, 87½c; Barley—Dull; December, 72½c; May, 70½c. Corn—\$1.20. Bran—\$1.25 per ton.

TREASURER'S DEPOSITS.

Favoritism Causes a Lively Row at Santa Rosa.

SANTA ROSA, April 3.—There is a very lively row in progress here over the refusal of County Treasurer Woodward to deposit the county funds in the Exchange bank, of which Mr. Doyle is president. Doyle bitterly opposed Woodward's election and the latter is now getting even. It is the custom for the treasurer to deposit the county funds in the various banks for safe-keeping and until this occurrence no favoritism has been shown. Today Doyle notified Woodward that if he did not give him his share of the money for deposit he would see that none of the other banks got any. Woodward refused and Doyle has complained to the bank commissioners. He says he will keep up the fight until Woodward gives in or all the money is kept in the treasury safe. The law provides that the money may be deposited in the banks for safe-keeping, and Woodward says he will not keep the money in the treasury vault unless a guard is provided day and night.

Southern Pacific Directors Elected.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 2.—The annual meeting of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company was held here this afternoon. There was a representation at the meeting of 1,300,000 shares of stock out of the total 1,200,000 shares. By a unanimous vote the following board of directors was elected: Charles F. Crocker, George Crocker, C. P. Huntington, Charles O. Lathrop, N. T. Smith, T. E. Sullivan, John H. Smith, A. T. Smith, and Russell L. Wilson. George Crocker, who succeeds W. H. Crocker, and Charles O. Lathrop, who succeeds S. T. Gay, are the only new members of the board.

Eloped With a Soldier.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 3.—Annie Daly, the 15-year-old girl who eloped to Stockton with soldier St. Clair of the Provisional, has been returned to her parents and at their request sent to the Magdalen asylum. St. Clair had no money, but persuaded the girl to take \$60 belonging to her parents. He secured a marriage license, swearing that the girl was of age, and they departed for Stockton. The police followed them there, but St. Clair fled. He is wanted as a deserter.

OMAHA'S A. P. A.

IT WILL CONTROL THE FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENT.

The Lobby in the Legislature Sings "We'll Hang Jeff Davis to a Sour Apple Tree."

OMAHA, April 3.—A special to the Bee from Lincoln says: The bill which will place Omaha's fire and police departments in the hands of the A. P. A. passed the legislature today over the governor's veto. The measure provides that the governor, attorney general and commissioner of public lands and buildings shall appoint the persons who shall constitute the Omaha fire and police commission, two of whom may be of the same party. The attorney general and commissioner of public lands and buildings are A. P. A.'s. Every business man of prominence in Omaha protested against the measure, which cuts the mayor of the city off from all participation in the control of city affairs. The police commission at present is a non-partisan body.

There was an exciting scene in the house when the bill came up. Mr. O'Ricketts read from an editorial in an Omaha paper which said that a policeman's club was held over the heads of witnesses to prevent them from testifying before the pending investigation. Ricketts said that the same policeman's club prevented Omaha from giving Major 6000 majority for governor last fall. When the bill passed over the veto there ensued a scene of wild and riotous rejoicing. Majors sprang into the center of the aisle and waived his hat, at the same time giving a wild yell. The lobby joined, and then the crowd began to sing "We'll Hang Jeff Davis to a sour apple tree."

All Omaha is indignant over the result and will probably carry the matter to the supreme court.

POSTOFFICE ROBBED.

A Large Amount in Stamps and Silverware Taken.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., April 3.—The post-office here was robbed of about \$10,000 worth of stamps and silverware today. The robbery was committed about noon while Postmaster Ridgely was at dinner, and was not discovered until 5 o'clock. Access was gained to the vault by the use of duplicate keys. The vault officer, who was on duty, private office and the combination is never turned. In order to secure entrance to the vault two keys had to be used, one to open the spring lock on the door of the safe and the other to the inner door of the vault. The combination of the vault was not known. The money was locked when Mr. Ridgely returned after lunch. Besides the stamps, Mr. Ridgely had stored in the vault his daughter's wedding presents, valued at \$1000. The stamps and silverware would make an enormous package, and it is hard to conceive of a method to take them from the building in daylight without observation. It was 5 o'clock when the robbery was discovered and the vault was closed. The vault was found in wild disorder, and everything of value removed. There is no clue.

The Taylor Jury.

CARROLLTON, Mo., April 3.—The jury at a late hour tonight is still out, and there is apparently no prospect of reaching a verdict. It is rumored the jury now stands 11 for conviction and 1 for acquittal. There is no telling how long the judge will keep them out—possibly until next Sunday. The prosecuting attorney is investigating the report that there has been an inducement offered to some members of the jury to prevent a conviction. If this fact can be positively affirmed the judge will impanel a special jury to investigate. Feeling is running high. The Taylor brothers are in better spirits and regard the delay as favorable to their cause.

Another Social Leader Dead.

NEW YORK, April 3.—Mrs. Parson Stevens, who, like the late Ward McAllister, was for many years a social leader in New York, died of pneumonia at her home this afternoon, aged 61 years.

A Report Not Credited.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—The Spanish legation does not credit the report that the Spanish admiral congratulated Lieutenant Ybarra on his capture in firing on the American steamer Alliance.

SPAIN'S READY GUNS

A Spanish Warship Fires on the Ethelred.

BOUND FROM BOSTON TO JAMAICA

The Affair Appears to Be Almost Identical With the Firing on the Alliance.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—It is stated by officials that the reported firing by a Spanish warship on a British ship, the Ethelred, bound from Boston to Jamaica, if confirmed, will give the United States and Great Britain a common cause in demanding explanations and indemnities from Spain. Official confirmation of the indignity on the Ethelred has not been received here either at the state department or British embassy. It is said that the usual course would be for the commander of the steamer to report the facts to the London foreign office. As he was bound for Jamaica he may first report to the governor-general of that British colony, who in turn would report to the London foreign office.

Great Britain is quick to take cognizance of any interference with her merchant marine, and it is not doubted that if the facts are as reported the foreign office will demand an explanation, and second compensation. The affair appears to be almost identical with the firing on the Alliance. It is not yet clear, however, whether the Ethelred was on the high seas or was within six miles of Spain, which is the jurisdictional limit claimed by Spain. In Mr. Graham's demand on Spain he took the advanced position that American vessels on their routes could not be molested, even within the jurisdiction of Spanish waters. If Great Britain takes a similar position as to her merchant vessels on their regular routes to Jamaica, the United States will have a strong claim of the right to search and seizure within Cuban waters.

Validity of Tacoma Bonds.

TACOMA, Wash., April 3.—In an important decision rendered today, Judge Parker of the superior court decided against the Tacoma city council's suit to invalidate \$150,000 bonds issued by the city in payment for the water and light plants purchased two years ago. Stillpay sought also to enjoin the city from paying interest on the bonds. After extensive argument on the merits, Judge Parker decides for the city against Stillpay on every point raised. If an appeal is taken the supreme court will hear the case in May. The decision was welcome news to the people of Tacoma, who are strenuously opposed to any attempt at repudiation. The bonds are held in New York and New England.

Oranges at Auction.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 3.—The San Francisco Fruit Auction company had an offering of oranges today, selling as follows: Fancy navel, \$4.50 per 100; Choice, \$4.25 per 100; Standard, \$4.00 per 100; Lemons, \$5.00 per 100; to quality. Seedlings sold at \$0.04 per 100. Grape fruit, \$1.75 per box.

LEEDS' RESIGNATION.

THE TRAFFIC ASSOCIATION WILL WIND UP ITS AFFAIRS.

Hinton that Leeds Will Be Given a Position With the San Joaquin Valley Railroad.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 3.—The Traffic Association of California is practically a thing of the past. When Traffic Manager Leeds resigned the other day, giving up a salary of \$10,000 a year, knowing that he had a contract with the association until next November, there were many who wondered at his action. This was partly explained, however, at today's meeting of the association. They decided to wind up the affairs of the association after May 1st. The offices on Pine street will be closed. The corporate existence of the association will be kept up, but no attempt will be made to do business. It is concluded that a healthy competition in freight rates is now assured. It is hinted that Mr. Leeds will be given an important position in the traffic department of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad.

THE STRIKING SAILORS.

Two Vessels Obligated to Go to Sea With Union Crews.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 3.—The striking union sailors are hopeful again. This morning the bark Santiago and the schooner Charles E. Falk went to sea with union crews, having been forced to pay the union rate of \$35 a month. The water front has been practically depopulated by the strike, and it was impossible for the Shipowners' Association to get the vessels at the \$35 rate. The union sailors are threatening tonight to get out a writ of habeas corpus to recover one Albert Dahlgren, a union sailor, who was detained on board the schooner Volunteer, they say, against his will. This able seaman, Dahlgren, got drunk and fell into the hands of a sailor boarding master. When he recovered he was sent to the board the schooner Volunteer. Her captain says Dahlgren signed in the regular manner, and he refuses to surrender his seaman. The schooner is lying in the stream.

Railroad Officials Quarreling.

HONOLULU, Tex., April 3.—There has been a great stir among officials of the Southern Pacific in Texas. Charges and countercharges have been made by and against high officials of O. P. Huntington, the president of the corporation. The real fight has been between Kruttschmidt, general manager of the Atlantic system, and Gibbs, head of the land department, but the charges have also been made against subordinates in the department of each.

Ordinance Prohibiting Pool Selling.

LOS ANGELES, April 3.—The city council today passed an ordinance prohibiting pool selling, and the pool rooms which have been making books and selling pools on eastern race events in violation of the ordinance will be compelled to go out of business April 15th. The ordinance does not prohibit the making of books or selling pools on events conducted within the corporate limits of Los Angeles, however.

Cramp's Accounts in Dispute.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—There is a difference between the navy department and the Cramp, builders of the Minnesota, relative to the payment of certain expenses attending the trial trip of that vessel last year, and the accounts in dispute have been referred to a board of adjustment, as provided by the contract.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report

ROYAL Baking Powder ABSOLUTELY PURE

THE SOLANO DOCKED.

The Big Ferryboat in the Water Fifteen Years.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 3.—Today the largest ferryboat in the world traveled a distance of seventy feet in ten hours, going sideways and over land, instead of bow first in the water. As a result of the combined efforts of the twenty horses, 300 men, a dozen windlasses, two locomotives, one stationary engine and a score of jackscrews, the Solano is now on the ways in West Oakland, and for the first time since she was built, fifteen years ago, her keel is dry. The ferryboat has been docked since the ferryboat broke down between Benicia and Port Costa, but today was the first opportunity the tide offered for docking the big boat. Three days ago the cradles were drawn under the bottom of the monster hull and then hauled back with their lead to the end of the ways. This morning the tide was high enough to lift the boat, and the task of pulling the 6000 tons of marine architecture up the greased incline was commenced. There were a number of minor accidents, such as the breaking of ropes and pulleys, but nothing happened to seriously impede the work. The steady rain broke down between Benicia and Port Costa, but today was the first opportunity the tide offered for docking the big boat. Three days ago the cradles were drawn under the bottom of the monster hull and then hauled back with their lead to the end of the ways. This morning the tide was high enough to lift the boat, and the task of pulling the 6000 tons of marine architecture up the greased incline was commenced. There were a number of minor accidents, such as the breaking of ropes and pulleys, but nothing happened to seriously impede the work. The steady rain broke down between Benicia and Port Costa, but today was the first opportunity the tide offered for docking the big boat. Three days ago the cradles were drawn under the bottom of the monster hull and then hauled back with their lead to the end of the ways. 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